Today's News - Tuesday, March 12, 2013

- We lose Hisaka, who "rose from an interment camp to design a famous jail" in Columbus, Indiana (and much more).
- Pearman, Heathcote, and Bounds report on renewed hopes for BDP's 1969 Preston bus station: there's "chance that the axe hanging over it will finally be removed" (and two competitions).
- King is a bit cranky about "Bay Lights" installation on San Francisco's Bay Bridge: "The coolness quotient? Off the chart. But once the novelty fades..." (though he does "concede the resulting show is an ethereal treat," the miles-long comments section is none too happy).
- Goldhagen reads into the "revolution" happening in community libraries: "a handful of innovative architects are forging a new building type with a deceptively familiar name. Collectively, they make the case that excellent design is no luxury."
- Two in-depth reports from north of the border: Thom "realizes homecoming dream" with commission to design the first cultural venue in Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District - it "has been an emotional journey"; he also has plenty to say about corporate greed and the obstacles to sustainable development.
- Cardinal is bluntly honest about his shortcomings, but "after a rift with his architect son, he's sketching out a happier life with a young new team."
- Profiles of "The 10 Most Overlooked Women in Architecture History" (and scads of others proffered in comments).
- Gaudi's Sagrada Família gets the 60 Minutes treatment: great main video + a construction zone tour to the tippy top.
- Brussat bubbles over a video that "stitches together clips of the old Pennsylvania Station from Hollywood films ("I won't reveal the hilarious kicker").
- Capps reports on Lamster donning the architecture critic hat at the Dallas Morning News, and joining the faculty of the David Dillon Center for Texas Architecture (hooray for Mark, but us NYCers will miss him!).
- Murg puts out the call to help preserve the Eames House: buy a cool print!
- Hariri Pontarini wins 2013 RAIC Architectural Firm Award.
- The 2013 Wood WORKS! BC Design Awards winners "enthrall and inspire."
- Call for entries: 2013 Fast Company Innovation By Design Awards + RFP for a new cricket pavilion for the U.K.'s Coniston Cricket Club (both international).

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Obituary: Don M. Hisaka, 85, rose from an interment camp to design a famous jail in Columbus, Indiana... -- Dalton and Dalton; Hisaka and Associates- Cleveland Plain Dealer

All Eyes on Preston: Preston bus station is living on borrowed time. But there is a chance that the axe hanging over it will finally be removed...the city would gift the building to a developer with a realistic business plan...double-pronged competitions initiative...Forgotten Spaces and Gate 81... By Hugh Pearman -- Building Design Partnership/BDP (1969) [links to competitions info]- RIBA Journal (UK)

Condemned 'icon' offered ticket to ride: ...Simon Rigby...has pledged to refurbish Preston bus station, a supreme example of 1960s brutalist architecture...could be the last chance for a building that many say has outlived its purpose but which remains loved..."This was a cool place. It can be cool again." + Brutalism: brave, bold and very British. By Andrew Bounds and Edwin Heathcote -- BDP (1969)- Financial Times (UK)

'Bay Lights' dazzles, but symbolism dim: The coolness quotient? Off the chart...But once the novelty fades, we're left with a 1.8-mile light show that has little to do with either the structure to which it is attached or the natural setting above which it shines...I concede the resulting show is an ethereal treat...What "Bay Lights" lacks is what the Bay Bridge has in abundance, a rooted sense of emphatic place. By John King -- Leo Villareal [images, video]- San Francisco Chronicle

The Revolution at Your Community Library: New Media, New Community Centers: ...a handful of innovative architects are forging a new building type with a deceptively familiar name...Collectively, they make the case that excellent design is no luxury...Only good design can make a mute, inert edifice convey to people that it embraces all comers and embodies their community's shared identity. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen -- Rem Koolhaas/Joshua Prince-Ramus/Office of Metropolitan Architecture/OMA; MVRDV; MADA s.p.a.m.; David Adjaye; Helen & Hard [images]- The New Republic

Bing Thom realises homecoming dream with cultural contract: Being chosen to build the first of 17 venues at the West Kowloon Cultural District has been an emotional journey for Hong Kong-born Canadian architect...The 72-year-old...has plenty to say on a range of subjects, including corporate greed, the obstacles to sustainable development... -- Bing Thom Architects; Ronald Lu & Partners [images]- South China Morning Post

Douglas Cardinal: Navigating life's curves: For decades, he put his driving ambition ahead of family as he built an international reputation for his stunningly distinctive curvilinear buildings. Cardinal is still hard at work — but at 79, and after a rift with his architect son, he's sketching out a happier life with a young new team. -- Douglas Cardinal Architect; Cardinal Conley & Associates- Ottawa Citizen (Canada)

The 10 Most Overlooked Women in Architecture History -- Sophia Hayden Benett; Marion Mahony Griffin; Eileen Gray; Lilly Reich; Charlotte Perriand; Jane Drew; Lina Bo Bardi; Anne Tyng; Norma Merrick Sklarek; Denise Scott Brown- ArchDaily

God's Architect: Antoni Gaudi's glorious vision + The construction zone tour...through a maze of scaffolding and makeshift platforms, through a chorus of tinkering chisels, ascending over the rafters to a place where few get to go -- the tippy top of the Sagrada Família. [video]- CBS News 60 Minutes

"Penn Station, But Deliver Us From Grand Central": ...video stitches together more than six minutes' worth of clips of the old Pennsylvania Station from Hollywood films shot before it was demolished in 1962...I won't reveal the hilarious kicker. By David Brussat -- McKim, Mead & White [video]- Providence Journal (Rhode Island)

Mark Lamster Joins the Dallas Morning News: The newspaper's new architecture critic is joining the front lines of the national debate about design and urban planning...also joins the faculty of the David Dillon Center for Texas Architecture at the University of Texas...[he] stands to provide the official account as a city transforms itself from the bottom up. By Kriston Capps [images, links]- Architect Magazine

Help Preserve the Eames House, Get a Print: ...all proceeds going to support projects of the Eames Foundation, and Herman Miller and Vitra are matching donations for each print purchased. By Stephanie Murg [image, video]- UnBeige

Hariri Pontarini Architects Win 2013 RAIC/Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Architectural Firm Award: ...well known for their signature clean but warmly detailed modernism... [images]- Urban Toronto

Winning Architects, Structural Engineers and Project Teams Enthral and Inspire at 2013 Wood WORKS! BC Design Awards -- Equilibrium Consulting; Helliwell + Smith Blue Sky Architecture; Busby Perkins+Will; LWPAC Lang Wilson Practice in Architecture Culture; McFarland Marceau Architects; aka architecture + design; Merrick Architecture/Borowski Sakumoto Fligg; Zimba Design; etc. [images]- WoodWorks (Canadian Wood Council)

Call for entries: 2013 Fast Company Innovation By Design Awards (international): entries will be judged on their beauty,

originality, functionality, sustainability, and depth of user insight; categories include Spaces, Products, Social Good, Students, etc.; deadline: May 6- Fast Company

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP (international): open call for the redesign of a new Cricket Pavilion for Coniston Cricket Club; deadline: June 10- Coniston Cricket Club (UK)

Architects Opposing Prisons Gain Support: AIASF and international groups endorse human rights changes to AIA Code of Ethics. By Raphael Sperry, AIA -- Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility (ADPSR)- ArchNewsNow

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